

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A print job creation apparatus that creates a
print job, which includes layout of at least one image in
5 a template having at least one image integration area to
integrate an image therein, said print job creation
apparatus comprising:

a template selection module that selects a template
in response to a user's template selection instruction;
10 a priority order setting module that sets a priority
order of at least one image integration area included in
the selected template, based on an arrangement of the at
least one image integration area;

a built-in image selection module that selects at
15 least one image as a built-in image to be integrated into
the selected template, in response to the user's image
selection instruction; and

an image integration module that integrates the at
least one selected built-in image into the at least one
20 image integration area of the selected template in the
priority order set by said priority order setting module,
in response to the user's image integration instruction.

2. A print job creation apparatus in accordance with
claim 1, wherein said priority order setting module sets
the priority order of the at least one image integration
area according to a positional sequence of an upper end
5 of each image integration area in the selected template.

3. A print job creation apparatus in accordance with
claim 1, wherein said priority order setting module sets
the priority order of the at least one image integration
10 area according to a positional sequence of a left end of
each image integration area in the selected template.

4. A print job creation apparatus in accordance with
claim 1, wherein the template is prepared by setting at
15 least one transparent area as the image integration area
in an original template image, which has no image
integration area, and

said priority order setting module sets the priority
order of the at least one image integration area, based
20 on an arrangement of the at least one transparent area in
the original template image..

5. A print job creation apparatus in accordance with

claim 1, wherein the template is prepared by combining an original template image, which has no image integration area, with at least one area display image, which defines the at least one image integration area, and

5 said priority order setting module sets the priority order of the at least one image integration area, based on the at least one area display image.

6. A print job creation apparatus in accordance with

10 claim 5, wherein the area display image is used to set a transparent area corresponding to the image integration area in the original template image.

7. A print job creation apparatus in accordance with

15 claim 5, wherein the area display image is a one-pixel-one-bit image having one-bit information for each one pixel, which represents either a bit-on or a bit-off to show inclusion into or exclusion from an image integration area.

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8. A print job creation apparatus in accordance with
claim 1, said print job creation apparatus further comprising:

an image replacement module that, in response to the user's selection of one image integration area in the template with a built-in image currently placed therein by said image integration module and an image to be newly integrated into the selected image integration area,
5 replaces the built-in image currently placed in the selected image integration area with the selected image.

9. A print job creation apparatus in accordance with
10 claim 1, said print job creation apparatus further comprising:

a print service selection module that selects one print service among multiple print service options, in response to the user's operation; and
15 a template storage module that stores available templates corresponding to each of the multiple print service options,

wherein said template selection module displays a list of available templates corresponding to a print
20 service selected by said print service selection module, among all the templates stored in said template storage module, to allow selection of a desired template.

10. A print job creation apparatus in accordance with
claim 9, wherein the multiple print services include at
least one of an enlargement printing service, a digest
printing service, a calendar printing service, a postcard
5 printing service, a photo name card printing service, an
ID photograph printing service, a seal printing service,
a label printing service, and an album printing service.

11. A print job creation method that creates a print
10 job, which includes layout of at least one image in a
template having at least one image integration area to
integrate an image therein, said print job creation method
comprising the steps of:

(a) selecting a template in response to a user's
15 template selection instruction;

(b) setting a priority order of at least one image
integration area included in the selected template, based
on an arrangement of the at least one image integration
area;

20 (c) selecting at least one image as a built-in image
to be integrated into the selected template, in response
to the user's image selection instruction; and

(d) integrating the at least one selected built-in

image into the at least one image integration area of the selected template in the priority order set in said step (b), in response to the user's image integration instruction.

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12. A print job creation method in accordance with claim 11, wherein said step (b) sets the priority order of the at least one image integration area according to a positional sequence of an upper end and a positional 10 sequence of a left end of each image integration area in the selected template.

13. A print job creation method in accordance with claim 11, said print job creation method further 15 comprising the step of:

in response to the user's selection of one image integration area in the template with a built-in image currently placed therein in said step (d) and an image to be newly integrated into the selected image integration 20 area, replacing the built-in image currently placed in the selected image integration area with the selected image.